

critical faculty is a product of education and training. It is a mental habit and power. It is a prime condition of human welfare that men and women should be trained in it. It is our only guarantee against delusion, deception, superstition, and misapprehension of ourselves and our earthly circumstances. It is a faculty which will protect us against all harmful suggestion.

"We are all critical against the results reached by others and uncritical against our own results." / To act by suggestion or autosuggestion is to act by impulse. Education teaches us to act by judgment. Our education is good just so far as it produces well-developed critical faculty. The thirteenth century had no critical faculty. It wandered in the dark, multiplying errors, and starting movements which produced loss and misery for centuries, because it dealt with fantasies, and did not know the truth about men or their position in the world. The nineteenth century was characterized by the acquisition and use of the critical faculty. A religious catechism never can train children to criticism. "Patriotic" history and dithyrambic literature never can do it. A teacher of any subject who insists on accuracy and a rational control of all processes and methods, and who holds everything open to unlimited verification and revision is cultivating that method as a habit in the pupils. In current language this method is called "science" or "scientific." The critical habit of thought, if usual in a society, will pervade all its mores, because it is a way of taking up the problems of life. Men educated in it cannot be stampeded by stump orators and are never deceived by dithyrambic oratory. They are slow to believe. They can hold things as possible or

probable in all
degrees, without certainty and without pain. They
can wait for
evidence and weigh evidence, uninfluenced by the
emphasis or
confidence with which assertions are made on one
side or the
other. They can resist appeals to their dearest
prejudices and all
kinds of cajolery. Education in the critical faculty is
the only
education of which it can be truly said that it
makes good citi-
zens. The operation of the governmental system
and existing
laws is always "educating" the citizens, and
very often it is

¹ Friedmann, *Wahnideen im Volkerleben*, 219.